Essential Conventions Check Mate
Teacher Resource Guide Sampler

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Gary B. Chadwell
Daily Exercises

Focus on Check Mate Rule 1: Every sentence requires the first word to be capitalized, and it must have end punctuation.
Sentence Theme: Physical science and mathematics

(Focused Practice)

1. did you know that the distance light can travel in a year is over five trillion miles (2 fixes)

2. is Earth a star no, but our sun is a medium-sized star (2 sentences/4 fixes)

3. Is it possible for something to catch on fire without any outside source of heat yes, it is called spontaneous combustion (2 sentences/3 fixes)

(Mixed Practice)

4. Isaac newton was amazing he discovered the principal of gravity and he invented calculus (2 sentences/5 fixes) Rules 1, 2.A, 3.B

5. is an atom smaller than a molecule yes an atom is the smallest unit of a chemical element atoms link together too form molecules (3 sentences/8 fixes) Rules 1, 3.D, 7

Extended Passage

did you know that plants make their own food by a process called photosynthesis all plants have chlorophyll A plants chlorophyll makes it’s leaves green plants use the chlorophyll to trap sunlight then they combine the light with water to make oxygen and sugars Thats what they use for food (6 sentences/13 fixes) Rules 1, 5.A, 5.B, 7

ACES (Applications, Challenges, Extensions, and Samples)

→ Work with a partner. Each of you will write a question that you think will be on an upcoming science quiz or test. Check each other’s question to make sure it is written accurately. After sharing your questions, discuss the correct answers. Write a brief answer to your question—in one or more complete sentences.
**Daily Exercises**

*(Focused Practice)*

1. did you know that the distance light can travel in a year is over five trillion miles? (2 fixes)

2. is Earth a star? no, but our sun is a medium-sized star. (2 sentences/4 fixes)

3. Is it possible for something to catch on fire without any outside source of heat? yes, it is called spontaneous combustion. (2 sentences/3 fixes)

*(Mixed Practice)*

4. Isaac Newton was amazing. he discovered the principal of gravity and he invented calculus. (2 sentences/5 fixes) Rules 1, 2.A, 3.B

5. Is an atom smaller than a molecule? yes, an atom is the smallest unit of a chemical element. atoms link together to form molecules. (3 sentences/8 fixes) Rules 1, 3.D, 7

**Extended Passage**

did you know that plants make their own food by a process called photosynthesis? all plants have chlorophyll. A plant's chlorophyll makes its leaves green. plants use the chlorophyll to trap sunlight then they combine the light with water to make oxygen and sugars. that's what they use for food. (6 sentences/13 fixes) Rules 1, 5.A, 5.B, 7
Daily Exercises

Focus on Check Mate Rules 4.A: Use quotation marks to enclose a direct quote, a person’s (or persons’) exact words.

4.B: Use a comma to set off a direct quote from the rest of the sentence.
4.C: A comma, period, question mark, or exclamation point is placed inside the closing quotation marks.

Sentence Theme: Literature, mythology, and folklore

(Focused Practice)

1. Julia raised her hand and said My favorite author is Lois Lowry  (4 fixes)

2. Snow White is still one of my favorite folk tale characters admitted Felix.  (3 fixes)

3. When Ms. Guiterrez said You know, several of Stephen King’s short stories have been made into feature length motion pictures I was shocked.  (4 fixes)

(Mixed Practice)

4. I've always been amazed at what Helen Keller achieved said Reyna yes Helen Kellers accomplishments are impressive but she had a lot of help Helen’s parents encouraged her and Anne Sullivan was her teacher for fifty years I think her most inspiring quote is Self pity is our worst enemy, and if we yield to it we can never do anything good in the world  (4 sentences/22 fixes) Rules 1, 2.A, 3.B, 3.D, 4.A, 4.B, 4.C, 5.A, 5.B

5. Remember Lewis Carroll was a pseudonym he was born Charles Dodgson, Ms. Palmisano reminded us I should remember that since Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland is my favorite story I’ve always loved his quote If you don’t know where you are going, any road will get you there (4 sentences/25 fixes) Rules 1, 2.A, 2.D, 2.F, 3.C, 4.A, 4.B, 4.C, 5.A, 5.B

Extended Passage

All of us was surprised when Ms. Telios said Well did you know that Forks was the original title of Stephanie Meyers best-selling book Twilight later, when I went to Meyers’ website I read that her first attempt at a sequel to Twilight was a 700-page epic titled Forever Dawn but she scrapped that book and wrote New Moon, another best seller. I also learned their that she almost decided to use Morgan Meyer as her pen name (3 sentences/29 fixes) Rules 1, 2.A, 2.D, 2.F, 3.B, 3.D, 4.A, 4.B, 4.C, 5.B, 6.B, 7

ACES (Applications, Challenges, Extensions, and Samples)

→ Some teachers may have warned you against it, but the focus of this task is dialogue—pure dialogue. Write a real (or typical) conversation between you and a friend or family member. Two challenges: 1) Use stronger verbs than “said,” and 2) Remember Rules 4.A, B, and C.
**Daily Exercises**

*(Focused Practice)*

1. Julia raised her hand and said, "My favorite author is Lois Lowry." (4 fixes)

2. Snow White is still one of my favorite folk tale characters, admitted Felix. (3 fixes)

3. When Ms. Guiterrez said, "You know, several of Stephen King’s short stories have been made into feature length motion pictures," I was shocked. (4 fixes)

*(Mixed Practice)*

4. "I’ve always been amazed at what Helen Keller achieved," said Reyna. Yes, Helen Keller’s accomplishments are impressive, but she had a lot of help. Helen’s parents encouraged her and Anne Sullivan was her teacher for fifty years. I think her most inspiring quote is, "Self pity is our worst enemy, and if we yield to it we can never do anything good in the world."


5. "Remember, class. Lewis Carroll was a pseudonym. He was born Charles Dodgson. Ms. Palmisano reminded us, I should remember that since *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* is my favorite story, I’ve always loved his quote. "If you don’t know where you are going, any road will get you there."


**Extended Passage**

All of us were surprised when Ms. Telios said, "Well, did you know that *Forks* was the original title of Stephanie Meyers’ best-selling book *Twilight*, later, when I went to her website I read that her first attempt at a sequel to *Twilight* was a 700-page epic titled *Forever Dawn*, but she scrapped that book and wrote *New Moon*, another best seller. I also learned that she almost decided to use Morgan Meyers as her pen name." (3 sentences/29 fixes) Rules 1, 2.A, 2.D, 2.F, 3.B, 3.D, 4.A, 4.B, 4.C, 5.B, 6.B, 7
Use a comma to separate two or more adjectives that describe the same noun.

- It was a large, rundown house.
- The director makes brilliant, insightful films.

**Note:** Use a comma between two or more adjectives only if they are equal in strength and emphasis.

**HINT**
Here are two tests to see if the comma is necessary: substitute the word *and* between the adjectives OR reverse the order of the two adjectives. If it still sounds right, then the comma is appropriate.

- I prefer natural, nutritious desserts. (*Natural* and *nutritious* describe *desserts* equally. It still sounds right with either test, so a comma is needed.)
- I have only a few classical recordings. (*Few* and *classical* do not describe *recordings* equally. It does not sound right with either test, so no comma is needed.)
- His tie has many green stripes. (*Many* and *green* are not equal. It does not sound right with either test, so no comma is needed.)
Glossary of Essential Terms

**Acronym** – An acronym is an abbreviation made up of the first letters or first sounds of several words. An acronym is usually pronounced as a word like NATO (for North Atlantic Treaty Organization) or FEMA (for Federal Emergency Management Agency). See FANBOYS in this glossary. (An initialism is a type of abbreviation in which each of the letters is pronounced separately, like UN or NFL.)

**Adjective** – An adjective is a word that modifies (describes) a noun or pronoun [Example: The frustrated batter walked back to the bench.].

**Adverb** – An adverb is a word that modifies (describes) verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. They tell how, when, where, why, how much, or how often [Example: He dove gracefully into the oncoming wave.].

**Adverbial Clause** – An adverbial clause functions as an adverb. Since it is a clause, it has a subject and a predicate. It modifies a verb [Example: We entered after the doors were unlocked.]. There are also adverbial phrases that modify verbs [Example: I like to play cards for money.].

**Antecedent** – A pronoun is used in place of a noun. The noun that a pronoun refers to is called its antecedent. The pronoun antecedent is also called a pronoun referent. The noun usually goes before the pronoun (“ante” means before) [Example: Students like dances because they get to see their friends after school. Note: In this sentence the pronoun “they” refers to the antecedent “Students.”].

**Apostrophe (‘) –** An apostrophe is used within a word to show possession [Example: Today’s weather looks good.], to indicate that one or more letters have been left out of a word [Example: can’t instead of cannot], or to make plural forms of letters, numbers, and symbols [Examples: all A’s on his report card; mostly +’s on the checklist]. (See the Tip Sheet: Apostrophes-Specialized Rules.)

**Appositive** – An appositive is a word or phrase in a sentence that describes or renames a noun or pronoun. The appositive immediately follows the noun it renames and is usually set off with commas [Example: Miles Davis, the legendary trumpeter, is my favorite jazz musician.].

**Clause** – A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a predicate (verb) and is a part of a sentence. An independent clause is a complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence or can be part of a sentence [Example: Air travel is faster, but I prefer to travel by train. Note: This sentence has two independent clauses joined by the coordinating conjunction “but.”]. A subordinate clause (also called a dependent clause) has a subject and predicate but does not express a complete thought. It cannot stand alone as a sentence [Example: I understand the reason why Rick got the award. Note: In this sentence, “why Rick got the award” is a subordinate clause—with a subject and a predicate—that describes the verb “understand.” However, by itself it does not express a complete thought.].
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